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[2565/56]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Martin LAUER
Serial No. : 09/342,017
Filed : June 28, 1999
For : CONNECTOR ELEMENT WITH A SEALING PART
Examiner : Michael J. Hayes
Art Unit : 3763

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Signature: _____

Thomas C. Hughes

AMENDMENT

S I R:

In response to the Office Action of December 17, 2001 kindly amend the
above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 6, 7 and 14 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A connector element for connecting a fluid line, preferably
a length of tubing, cannulas or catheters to a second connector element, comprising:
- a conduit forming a lumen for conveying a flowing medium;
 - a sealing part moveable relative to the conduit between a closed position and an open
position, adapted for sealing the conduit from an ambient atmosphere when in the closed
position; and
 - an opening element including an outer socket connector having a diameter that is
greater than a diameter of the conduit, the opening element configured to open the sealing
part while forming a connection, wherein the opening element prevents the sealing part from
contacting the conduit either when in the closed position or in the open position.